



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

27 DEC 2011

Victoria Rutson
Director, Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Attn: Danielle Gosselin

RE: Environmental Filing FD 35116 -- Final Environmental Impact Statement
R.J. Corman Railroad Company/Pennsylvania Lines Inc.

Dear Ms Rutson:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above mentioned project. The proposed rail line would be approximately 20 miles long, located in Pennsylvania's eastern Clearfield County, primarily in Morris and Copper Township and in western Centre County, Rush and Snow Shoe Townships. The Preferred Alternative remains the Modified Proposed Action. The EPA provided written comments on the draft EIS on September 28, 2010 and the supplemental draft EIS on April 25, 2011.

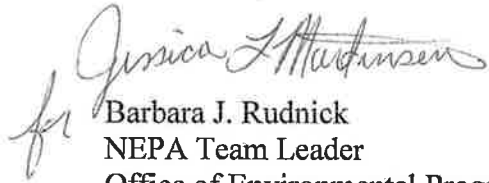
The purpose of the project remains to service proposed development near Gorton Pennsylvania. It appears from the document that most of the development remains speculative but may include a quarry, an industrial park, and a "frac water" treatment plant. Due to the speculative nature of the proposed development it was not possible to accurately determine the cumulative impacts that may result from this proposed project.

EPA intends to remain involved with this project and its associated cumulative developments should the Surface Transportation Board grant authorization for the construction and operation of this rail line. We will be working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to ensure that environmental impacts are avoided, minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent possible.



EPA appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on this EIS. If you should have any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact Mrs. Jamie Davis, the staff contact for this project, at 570-842-1044 or by email at davis.jamie@epa.gov.

Sincerely,


for Barbara J. Rudnick
NEPA Team Leader
Office of Environmental Programs

